

Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel claims 1-4, 9, 12-17, 21, 23-27, 30-33, and 36-41 without prejudice. Please amend claims 5-8, 10, 11, 18-20, 22, 28, 29, and 34-35 according to the listing of claim below.

Listing of Claims

1-4 (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) ~~The apparatus of claim 4, wherein said visual indicator comprises an index marking and a corresponding scale marking providing an indication of said amount of rotation.~~ An apparatus for use in a treatment modality including an enlargement procedure to be performed within a patient, said apparatus including a catheter for being directed through internal passageways in the patient, said catheter having a proximal end and a distal end, a proximal portion adjacent to said proximal end and a distal portion adjacent to said distal end, and a first and at least a second generally parallel lumen, said first and said second lumens extending between said proximal and distal portions, and a cutting wire for performing the enlargement procedure extending through said second lumen for operating at said distal portion in response to manipulations at said proximal end, said cutting wire having a distal end attached to said catheter at the distal end of said second lumen, a portion thereof external to said catheter along a length coextensive with a portion of said distal portion of said catheter and a handle for operating said cutting wire from a point proximal of said catheter, the improvement comprising:

a rotatable coupling attaching said handle to said catheter allowing said handle to rotate relative to said proximal end of said catheter while engaging and rotating a

proximal end of said cutting wire whereby said distal portion of said catheter rotates as a result of said rotation of said handle;

a locking mechanism for locking an orientation of a distal portion of said cutting wire; and

a rotation indicator configured to indicate an amount of rotation of said handle relative to said proximal end of said catheter, said rotation indicator comprising a visual indicator of said amount of rotation, an index marking, and a corresponding scale marking providing an indication of said amount of rotation.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~The apparatus of claim 3, wherein said rotation indicator comprises a device providing an audible indication in response to said rotation of said handle relative to said proximal end of said catheter.~~ An apparatus for use in a treatment modality including an enlargement procedure to be performed within a patient, said apparatus including a catheter for being directed through internal passageways in the patient, said catheter having a proximal end and a distal end, a proximal portion adjacent to said proximal end and a distal portion adjacent to said distal end, and a first and at least a second generally parallel lumen, said first and said second lumens extending between said proximal and distal portions, and a cutting wire for performing the enlargement procedure extending through said second lumen for operating at said distal portion in response to manipulations at said proximal end, said cutting wire having a distal end attached to said catheter at the distal end of said second lumen, a portion thereof external to said catheter along a length coextensive with a portion of said distal portion of said catheter and a handle for operating said cutting wire from a point proximal of said catheter, the improvement comprising:

a rotatable coupling attaching said handle to said catheter allowing said handle to rotate relative to said proximal end of said catheter while engaging and rotating a proximal end of said cutting wire whereby said distal portion of said catheter rotates as a result of said rotation of said handle;

a locking mechanism for locking an orientation of a distal portion of said cutting wire;

a rotation indicator configured to indicate an amount of rotation of said handle relative to said proximal end of said catheter, said rotation indicator comprising a device providing an audible indication in response to said rotation of said handle relative to said proximal end of said catheter.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said locking mechanism includes an insert positioned between moving parts of said apparatus to resist movement between said moving parts.~~ An apparatus for use in a treatment modality including an enlargement procedure to be performed within a patient, said apparatus including a catheter for being directed through internal passageways in the patient, said catheter having a proximal end and a distal end, a proximal portion adjacent to said proximal end and a distal portion adjacent to said distal end, and a first and at least a second generally parallel lumen, said first and said second lumens extending between said proximal and distal portions, and a cutting wire for performing the enlargement procedure extending through said second lumen for operating at said distal portion in response to manipulations at said proximal end, said cutting wire having a distal end attached to said catheter at the distal end of said second lumen, a portion thereof external to said catheter along a length coextensive with a portion of said distal portion of said catheter and a

handle for operating said cutting wire from a point proximal of said catheter, the improvement comprising:

a rotatable coupling attaching said handle to said catheter allowing said handle to rotate relative to said proximal end of said catheter while engaging and rotating a proximal end of said cutting wire whereby said distal portion of said catheter rotates as a result of said rotation of said handle; and

a locking mechanism for locking an orientation of a distal portion of said cutting wire, said locking mechanism including an insert positioned between moving parts of said apparatus to resist movement between said moving parts.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said locking mechanism includes an insert and further including a guidewire wherein said guidewire passes through said insert and said insert resists movement of said guidewire.~~ An apparatus for use in a treatment modality including an enlargement procedure to be performed within a patient, said apparatus including a catheter for being directed through internal passageways in the patient, said catheter having a proximal end and a distal end, a proximal portion adjacent to said proximal end and a distal portion adjacent to said distal end, and a first and at least a second generally parallel lumen, said first and said second lumens extending between said proximal and distal portions, and a cutting wire for performing the enlargement procedure extending through said second lumen for operating at said distal portion in response to manipulations at said proximal end, said cutting wire having a distal end attached to said catheter at the distal end of said second lumen, a portion thereof external to said catheter along a length coextensive with a portion of said distal portion of said catheter and a handle for operating said cutting wire

from a point proximal of said catheter, the improvement comprising:

a rotatable coupling attaching said handle to said catheter allowing said handle to rotate relative to said proximal end of said catheter while engaging and rotating a proximal end of said cutting wire whereby said distal portion of said catheter rotates as a result of said rotation of said handle; and

a locking mechanism for locking an orientation of a distal portion of said cutting wire, said locking mechanism including an insert and further including a guidewire wherein said guidewire passes through said insert and said insert resists movement of said guidewire.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) ~~The apparatus of claim 9, wherein said second locking mechanism includes evenly spaced detents in said handle body which interact with one or more pawls.~~ An apparatus for use in a treatment modality including an enlargement procedure to be performed within a patient, said apparatus including a catheter for being directed through internal passageways in the patient, said catheter having a proximal end and a distal end, a proximal portion adjacent to said proximal end and a distal portion adjacent to said distal end, and a first and at least a second generally parallel lumen, said first and said second lumens extending between said proximal and distal portions, and a cutting wire for performing the enlargement procedure extending through said second lumen for operating at said distal portion in response to manipulations at said proximal end, said cutting wire having a distal end attached to said catheter at the distal end of said second lumen, a portion thereof external to said catheter along a length coextensive with a portion of said distal portion of said catheter and a handle for operating said cutting

wire from a point proximal of said catheter, the improvement comprising:

a rotatable coupling attaching said handle to said catheter allowing said handle to rotate relative to said proximal end of said catheter while engaging and rotating a proximal end of said cutting wire whereby said distal portion of said catheter rotates as a result of said rotation of said handle;

a locking mechanism for locking an orientation of a distal portion of said cutting wire;

a second locking mechanism which engages said cutting wire to prevent lengthwise movement thereof, said second locking mechanism including evenly spaced detents in said handle body which interact with one or more pawls.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said locking mechanism includes evenly spaced detents on an active cord insert which interact with one or more detents located in a handle body to resist movement of said active cord insert with respect to said handle body.~~ An apparatus for use in a treatment modality including an enlargement procedure to be performed within a patient, said apparatus including a catheter for being directed through internal passageways in the patient, said catheter having a proximal end and a distal end, a proximal portion adjacent to said proximal end and a distal portion adjacent to said distal end, and a first and at least a second generally parallel lumen, said first and said second lumens extending between said proximal and distal portions, and a cutting wire for performing the enlargement procedure extending through said second lumen for operating at said distal portion in response to manipulations at said proximal end, said cutting wire having a distal end attached to said catheter at the distal end of said second lumen, a portion thereof external to said catheter

along a length coextensive with a portion of said distal portion of said catheter and a handle for operating said cutting wire from a point proximal of said catheter, the improvement comprising:

a rotatable coupling attaching said handle to said catheter allowing said handle to rotate relative to said proximal end of said catheter while engaging and rotating a proximal end of said cutting wire whereby said distal portion of said catheter rotates as a result of said rotation of said handle; and

a locking mechanism for locking an orientation of a distal portion of said cutting wire, said locking mechanism including evenly spaced detents on an active cord insert which interact with one or more detents located in a handle body to resist movement of said active cord insert with respect to said handle body.

12-17 (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 17, wherein said visual indication includes an index marking and a corresponding scale marking providing an indication of said amount of rotation.~~ A method of cutting tissue in a body passage comprising selecting a catheter having a first lumen configured for receiving a wire guide, a second lumen configured for receiving an electrosurgical cutting wire, positioning said catheter in said passage at a desired position using an endoscope, actuating the electrosurgical cutting wire in the second lumen, the improvement comprising:

orientating said electrosurgical cutting wire by rotating a handle relative to a proximal end of said catheter;

fixing an orientation of said electrosurgical cutting wire; and

indicating an amount of rotation of said handle relative to said proximal end of said catheter through the use of a rotation indicator, and wherein said step of indicating an amount of rotation includes a visual indication of said amount of rotation, said visual indication including an index marking and a corresponding scale marking providing an indication of said amount of rotation.

19. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 16, wherein said step of indicating an amount of rotation includes an audible indicator provided by a device in response to said rotation of said handle relative to said proximal end of said catheter.~~ A method of cutting tissue in a body passage comprising selecting a catheter having a first lumen configured for receiving a wire guide, a second lumen configured for receiving an electrosurgical cutting wire, positioning said catheter in said passage at a desired position using an endoscope, actuating the electrosurgical cutting wire in the second lumen, the improvement comprising:

orientating said electrosurgical cutting wire by rotating a handle relative to a proximal end of said catheter;

fixing an orientation of said electrosurgical cutting wire; and

indicating an amount of rotation of said handle relative to said proximal end of said catheter through the use of a rotation indicator, and said step of indicating an amount of rotation includes an audible indicator provided by a device in response to said rotation of said handle relative to said proximal end of said catheter.

20. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 12 wherein said step of fixing said orientation of said cutting wire uses an insert to create friction between moving parts in said catheter which resists movement between said moving parts.~~ A method of cutting tissue in a body passage comprising selecting a catheter having a first lumen configured for receiving a wire guide, a second lumen configured for receiving an electrosurgical cutting wire, positioning said catheter in said passage at a desired position using an endoscope, actuating the electrosurgical cutting wire in the second lumen, the improvement comprising:

orientating said electrosurgical cutting wire by rotating a handle relative to a proximal end of said catheter; and

fixing an orientation of said electrosurgical cutting wire using an insert to create friction between moving parts in said catheter which resists movement between said moving parts.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 21 wherein said step of preventing lengthwise movement of said cutting wire uses detents interacting with pawls.~~ A method of cutting tissue in a body passage comprising selecting a catheter having a first lumen configured for receiving a wire guide, a second lumen configured for receiving an electrosurgical cutting wire, positioning said catheter in said passage at a desired position using an endoscope, actuating the electrosurgical cutting wire in the second lumen, the improvement comprising:

orientating said electrosurgical cutting wire by rotating a handle relative to a proximal end of said catheter;

fixing an orientation of said electrosurgical cutting wire; and

preventing lengthwise movement of said cutting wire using detents interacting with
pawls.

23-27 (Cancelled)

28. (Currently Amended) ~~The catheter handle of claim 27, wherein said visual indicator
comprises an index marking and a corresponding scale marking providing an indication of said
amount of rotation.~~ A catheter handle comprising:

a rotatable coupling configured to allow free rotation of a proximal end of a catheter;
a clamping member configured to engage a proximal end of a device extending through a
lumen formed in said catheter whereby rotation of said handle causes rotation of a proximal end
of said device in said lumen;

a locking mechanism for locking an orientation of a distal end of said cutting device;
a rotation indicator configured to indicate an amount of rotation of said handle relative to
said proximal end of said catheter, said rotation indicator comprising a visual indicator of said
amount of rotation, an index marking, and a corresponding scale marking, and said markings
provide an indication of said amount of rotation.

29. (Currently Amended) ~~The catheter handle of claim 23, wherein said rotation indicator
comprises a device providing an audible indication in response to said rotation of said handle
relative to said proximal end of said catheter.~~ A catheter handle comprising:

a rotatable coupling configured to allow free rotation of a proximal end of a catheter;
a clamping member configured to engage a proximal end of a device extending through a
lumen formed in said catheter whereby rotation of said handle causes rotation of a proximal end

of said device in said lumen;

a locking mechanism for locking an orientation of a distal end of said cutting device; and

a rotation indicator configured to indicate an amount of rotation of said handle relative to said proximal end of said catheter, said rotation indicator comprising a device providing an audible indication in response to said rotation of said handle relative to said proximal end of said catheter.

30-33 (Cancelled)

34. (Currently Amended) ~~The catheter of claim 31, wherein said locking means includes an insert positioned between moving parts used to actuate said cutting device wherein said insert resists movement between said moving parts.~~ In a catheter including a shaft having a proximal end and a distal end, the improvement comprising:

a guidewire lumen carried by the shaft extending from a location proximal the distal end of the shaft to a location proximate the distal end of the shaft;

a cutting device extending from said proximal end of said catheter to a distal portion of said catheter, a distal portion of said cutting device exterior from said catheter;

first and second openings through the catheter wall into the guidewire lumen for accessing the guidewire lumen from a location exterior to the catheter shaft, said first opening being located proximal the distal end of the shaft, said second opening being located proximal said first opening, and

a locking mechanism for locking an orientation of a distal portion of said cutting device, said locking mechanism including an insert positioned between moving parts used to actuate said cutting device and said insert resists movement between said moving parts.

35. (Currently Amended) ~~The catheter of claim 31 wherein said locking means includes detents located in a handle of said catheter and at least one pawl located on an active cord insert, said active cord insert moves with respect to said handle and wherein said detents cooperate with said pawl to resist movement of said active cord insert.~~ In a catheter including a shaft having a proximal end and a distal end, the improvement comprising:

a guidewire lumen carried by the shaft extending from a location proximal the distal end of the shaft to a location proximate the distal end of the shaft;

a cutting device extending from said proximal end of said catheter to a distal portion of said catheter, a distal portion of said cutting device exterior from said catheter;

first and second openings through the catheter wall into the guidewire lumen for accessing the guidewire lumen from a location exterior to the catheter shaft, said first opening being located proximal the distal end of the shaft, said second opening being located proximal said first opening, and

a locking mechanism for locking an orientation of a distal portion of said cutting device, said locking mechanism including detents located in a handle of said catheter and at least one pawl located on an active cord insert, said active cord insert moves with respect to said handle and wherein said detents cooperate with said pawl to resist movement of said active cord insert.

36-41 (Cancelled)